

Method Number: TM 341

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Method Summary

Topsoil Textural Class

Scope and Range

This method is used to determine the characteristics of a <2mm sieved dried soil, by wet sieving and sedimentation.

The method is not accredited.

References

BS3882:2015 Specifications for topsoil and requirements for use.

BS ISO 11277:2009 Soil quality - determination of particle size distribution in solid material by sieving and sedimentation.

Principle

The Sand fraction of a soil is determined using wet sieving.
The Silt and Clay fractions are determined by sedimentation.
Fragment definitions are as below.

Sand - (2mm - 0.063mm)

Silt - (0.063mm - 0.002mm)

Clay- (<0.002mm)

Interferences

Anything that will prevent the dry sieving, dispersion and sedimentation of soil particles for example, excessive clay content will hinder dry sieving as the clay clumps together when dry.
Oil in the sample would prevent usual dispersion and sedimentation.